

NPS Wilderness Preservation and Management Policies

2001 NPS Management Policies - Chapter 6: Wilderness Preservation and Management

The National Park Service will evaluate all lands it administers for their suitability for inclusion within the national wilderness preservation system. For those lands that possess wilderness characteristics, no action that would diminish their wilderness suitability will be taken until after Congress and the President have taken final action. The superintendent of each park containing wilderness will develop and maintain a wilderness management plan to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness area, and ensure that wilderness is unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

6.1 General Statement

The National Park Service will manage wilderness areas for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. Management will include the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness. The public purpose of wilderness in the national parks includes the preservation of wilderness character and wilderness resources in an unimpaired condition, as well as for the purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, education, conservation, and historical use.

The policies contained in this chapter are supplemented by Director's Order #41: Wilderness Preservation and Management; and by Reference Manual 4, which accompanies the Director's Order. Those documents should be referred to for more detailed information on the topics covered in this chapter.

Current Policy

To obtain the most current edition of 2001 NPS Management Policies - Chapter 6: **Wilderness Preservation and Management**, visit the National Park Service Office of Policy website. Wilderness Preservation and Management Policies are located on the Internet at www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html.

For more information

NPS Wilderness Program Manager, Visitor and Resource Protection, WASO, (202) 513-7090 (www.wilderness.nps.gov).

